

## **CHAPTER III**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

This chapter presents the research methodology of the study to investigate American Dream appears in *On Such A Full Sea* by Chang-Rae Lee. This chapter consists of research design, research subject and context, data collection, data analysis, and synopsis of the novel.

#### **3.1. Research Design**

This study attempts to analyze the idea of American Dream that appears in Lee's novel *On Such A Full Sea* by using qualitative approach which employs textual analysis in the novel. Hancock, Windridge, and Ockleford (2007) states that qualitative research aims "to describe a phenomenon, to articulate what it means and to understand it" (p. 24). McKee (2003) states that textual analysis is conducted by interpreting certain text (novel, films, and advertisements for instance) in order to understand how people at the moment the text was written make sense of their world. Thus, this research attempts to investigate the idea of American Dream by analyzing the words, phrase and sentences contained in the novel that has relation to American Dream theme to derive meaning from the analysis about the American Dream in Lee's novel *On Such A Full Sea*. This research is also guided by the theory and indicators of American Dream proposed by Cullen (2009).

#### **3.2. Research Subject and Context**

A novel by Chang-Rae Lee entitled *On Such A Full Sea* is selected for the subject of analysis. This novel is potential to be analyzed since it contains issues about American Dream in a dystopian situation. In addition, compared to the other dystopian novels that contain the idea of American Dream such as *Fight Club* (1996) and *Hunger Games* (2008) which use first-person-singular "I" as the narrator, *On Such A Full Sea* presents its stories more convincingly by using first-person-plural "we" as if the storytellers are the ones who are also involved physically in the book's entire story. The "we" point of view can also act like a

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**AN ANALYSIS OF AMERICAN DREAM IN CHANG-RAE LEE'S DYSTOPIAN NOVEL ON SUCH A FULL SEA**

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single mind where they agree about the things occurring around them, the idea about how a perfect living would look like, and what dreams possessed by most of people who live in their world. With the use of the multiple narrator 'We', this novel possess so many issues to discuss. Thus, this novel is chosen for this research.

### **3.3. Data Collection**

The data are collected from selected words, phrases, and sentences in Chang Rae Lee's novel *On Such A Full Sea* that are related to the idea of American Dream. These textual evidences (words, phrases, and sentences) are taken from the dialogues, plot, setting, and narration of the novel that connect to the characters' experience of American Dream. Then, the framework used for this research are Cullen's theory and indicators of American Dream in order to support the interpretation of the analysis. The collected data are used to gather the information about the characters who have the American Dream, to classify the American Dream owned by the characters, to find out how the characters struggle to reach their American Dream, and to determine how American Dream manifests in the novel and whether the characters are succeed or failed in achieving their American Dream.

### **3.4. Data Analysis**

The analysis of this novel is conducted through these following steps, (a) identifying the characters who have American Dream in the novel, (b) classifying the American Dream owned by the characters in the novel based on Cullen's indicators of American Dream, (c) describing the characters' struggle to reach their American Dream, (d) making meaning from the characters' achievement of their American Dream, (e) draw conclusion from the interpretation to answer how American Dream manifests in Chang-Rae Lee's dystopian novel *On Such A Full Sea*.

### **3.5. Data Presentation**

The data are presented in a form of table. The table is named after characters' name and is explaining the development of the character's American Dream. This table is placed in the appendices and arranged as pictured below:

## Character 2: Oliver

Cullen's						
Indicator of American Dream	The Beginning	Textual Evidence	The Struggle	Textual Evidence	The End	Textual Evidence
Upward mobility and Freedom	Oliver used to be called Liwei before he is adopted by a Charter family. He is a B-Mor citizen who was born with an expectation that he will be a great person.	"Liwei... do you know if it means anything?... She said: Profit and Greatness. Of course, <b>Oliver was destined to succeed.</b> " (p. 367)	Liwei's path to be a successful person is chosen by his family and not by his own will. He is demanded to be great at swimming (shown in this excerpt) With this condition, Liwei must work harder	<b>"He realized how much harder he was working because of his faulty techniques and mechanics,... he brutally chopped at it, as his coach said, like a madman having a fit."</b> (pp. 385-386)	As Oliver works hard, he discovers a therapy for C-illness that is beneficial for his life security. He earns so much money that his financial condition is in a secure position.	"...in his early thirties, a doctor and blood C-specialist at the medical center, <b>had been developing an antirejection drug for the last eight years... the drug had been deemed promising enough that all three major pharmacorps joined in a frenzied auction for his patent...and was a</b>

than everyone who takes swimming as their own interest.	<b>sum of cash and unrestricted stock that Oliver and his wife and their three young children could live on for the rest of their lives, and in the finest Charter style...”</b> (p. 334)
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**Table 3.1. The Example of of Oliver’s American Dream Development**

### 3.6. Synopsis of *On Such A Full Sea*

The following is the information about the book chosen for this research:

Book Title : *On Such A Full Sea*

Author : Chang-Rae Lee

Published by : Riverhead Books of Penguin Group in 2014

Narrator : *On Such A Full Sea* is narrated by first person plural “we”. “We” is described as the citizens of the working-class society, B-Mor.

Story : The story begins with a description about the previous dwelling before the “we” are trucked out and moved to the revitalized working-class district, B-Mor. The narrator soon tells about a girl named Fan who escapes from B-Mor to search for her suddenly-lost boyfriend and go to other districts. Firstly, she arrives at one of the open counties, an abandoned district called The Smokes. She meets some people who are struggling to have better lives in B-Mor or Charter Village. Then she finally arrives in Charter Village, the district full of luxury. She finds out that this district is perfect to live a prosperous life with people who have successful business and big houses in it, until she discovers the flaw in the district.